

Please add the following language after the title and before the Field of the Invention of the specification:

"RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/602340, filed June 24, 2000."

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 through 8, 12 and 23; and amend claims 9, 15, 16, 22 and 24 as follows:

1. through 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

~~a real estate sign~~ an electronic lock box corresponding to a real estate property having a wireless communication system embedded therein wirelessly communicating information about the ~~piece of~~ real estate property; and

~~an electronic lock box receiving information from said real estate sign~~ and controlling access to the real estate property.

10. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said electronic lock box is hermetically sealed.

11. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the electronic lock box is capable of receiving requests and transmitting information about the real estate property to a transmitting/receiving device located within a predetermined proximity of the electronic lock box.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the information about the real estate property includes at least one of the group comprising a price of the real estate property, a square footage of the real estate property, a virtual tour of the real estate property, a number of bedrooms within the real estate property and an availability of the real estate property.

14. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the electronic lock box is capable of holding at least one key therein.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the transmitting/receiving device is one of a client configured device and a controlling agent device, the client configured device capable of requesting information about the real estate property from the electronic lock box ~~or the real estate sign~~, transmitting queries about the real estate property to ~~either the electronic lock box or the real estate sign~~, transmitting client information to the electronic lock box ~~or the real estate sign~~, transmitting client information to a remote real estate office via the electronic lock box ~~or the real estate sign~~, viewing information received from ~~either the electronic lock box or the real estate sign~~ or recording voice or text messages in the electronic lock box ~~or real estate sign~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the controlling agent device is capable of performing all client configured device functions and is further capable of at least enabling, programming and disabling ~~the real estate sign and the~~ electronic lock box, overriding access restrictions of ~~the real estate sign and the~~ electronic lock box, viewing information stored by ~~the real estate sign and the~~ electronic lock box, downloading information stored by ~~the real estate sign and the~~ electronic lock box, interacting with other premises electronic equipment, and maintaining the electronic lock box ~~and the real estate sign~~.

17. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the electronic lock box comprises at least one of the group consisting of a memory, a proximity device reader, a display, a clock and an alarm.

18. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electronic lock box is capable of storing at least one of a group comprising a time of a visit to the real estate property, a duration of the visit to the real estate property, an identity of a person who visited the real estate property and comments and/or suggestions from the person who visited the real estate property.

19. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electronic lock box can communicate via network to a controlling real estate office, the controlling real estate office transmitting a control signal to the electronic lock box to permit access to the real estate property.

20. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electronic lock box is capable of recording an attempt to gain access to the real estate property.

21. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electronic lock box can restrict access to the real estate property based upon communicated entry rules.

22. (Currently Amended) A real estate system comprising:

~~a real estate sign having a wireless communication system embedded therein located within a predetermined distance from a real estate property;~~

an electronic lock box having a wireless communication system embedded therein located within a predetermined distance from a real estate property ~~wirelessly communicating with the real estate sign~~ and controlling access to real estate property; and

a transmitting/receiving device, wherein the transmitting receiving device can transmit information to/from ~~the real estate sign or~~ the electronic lock box about the real estate property.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of marketing a real estate property comprising:

providing ~~a real estate sign~~ an electronic lock box within a predetermined proximity of the real estate property;

receiving, by the electronic lock box ~~real estate sign~~, queries about the real estate property from a transmitting/receiving device; and

transmitting information about the real estate property from the electronic lock box ~~real estate sign~~ to the transmitting/receiving device.